# T/S Column

*Monthly Column*
*By Bill Ferrebee*

What we hope to accomplish with this monthly column is to provide you with a source of T/S information. We'll try to cover the entire T/S family (ZX80-ZX81-TS1000-TS1500-Spectrum-TS2068-OL-Z88-???). We'll look at new software and hardware. User Groups, dealers and more. We'll give you advance notice of conventions and list other T/S publications you may be interested in.

One area we plan to cover in some detail is Desktop Publishing. I have been very involved in this application of the past 3 years. There are a number of good DTP programs available and a few more are being completed for future release. We will try to provide you with an unbiased review of each DTP program.

With any of the T/S DTP packages, one can produce quality newsletters, signs, greeting cards, labels and more. Next month, we will take a look at one of the first DTP packages available for T/S, Pixel Print. In its latest version, Pixel Print can let you produce top quality documents from the start.

Along with Desktop Publishing, we will also look at which Graphic Software is available. There are many features available on T/S software thought possible only on Macintosh earlier. So, get your creative juices flowing...

There are also some very good books available on Desktop Publishing (although not T/S specific). We plan to review some of the better ones for you in this column. Next month, for example we will take a look at "Looking Good in Print" and "The Makeover Book", two good beginning books on DTP by Roger C. Parker.

We want to make this Your column. So, we have a few things we would like you to do for us.

First, write us and let us know what you want to get out of this column. Are you interested in games...graphics...business applications? What about hardware...disk drives...digitizers...RAM expanders?

If you're a member of a User Group, let us know what your group is doing. If you write software, tell us about it (or send a copy so we can review it for you).

If you have a T/S computer and you don't know where to look for information, let us help you find an interested buyer. Just write!

Secondly, we want to compile a national database of all active T/S users. Send us your name, address, phone number and type of T/S computer(s) you use. User Groups, send us the same for all of your members.

If you know someone who is a T/S user and hasn't read this column, send their name in also. We want to make this as complete a listing as possible.

Once we get it compiled, we will make copies available to interesting parties. Maybe if we share with each other, we can grow closer together.

1990 marks the 10th Anniversary of Timex/Sinclair computing. From the humble beginnings of the 1K ZX80 to the rumored release of an IBM compatible laptop, Olive Sinclair has been at the helm of an exciting piece of computer history.

Hello, my name is Bill Ferrebee. I could think of no better way to celebrate this 10 year event than to debut a new monthly column for Timex/Sinclair users.

Thanks to Douglas Kilarski, we "Sinclairians" now have a new place to meet on a monthly basis. I hope our relationship with "Computer Buyer's Guide" is a long and prosperous one.

Maybe you're like me, a person that has remained dedicated to T/S from the beginning. Maybe you have a TS1000 or TS2068 hiding in your closet, and you thought its best days were long gone. Either way, I cordially invite you to read on.

First, let me tell you a little about myself. I became involved in the world of Timex/Sinclair in 1982, when I purchased my first TS100. After spending a few months courting my new-found "love", I wrote my first article for T- S Horizons, one of the pioneer U.S. T/S magazines. Soon after, I founded Mountaineer Software and began developing TS1000 (and eventually TS2068) software. When Timex announced the TS2068 in October of 1983, I rushed out and bought one of the first ones available (I had contacts at Timex Computer Corporation !). I immediately began to write software and did articles for T/S magazines like S.U.M. and Time Designs.

On February 22,1984, Timex announced that they were dropping out of the Home Computer market. No one outside of the Timex could figure out why they were giving up on such a wonderful product.

The TS2068 was powerful, easy-to-use, and economical. Even Creative Computing magazine compared the TS2068 to the Apple II at one sixth of the cost.

I later found out the true reason from my friend at Timex(after she got her "pink slip"). It seems that management decided that they made better profits on watches than computers.

Many thought that the T/S was dead without support from Timex. But that couldn't be further from the truth. There are numerous User Groups and software developers. A national T/S organization (S.N.U.G.) is developing, and there have been several T/S conventions. The future of T/S looks bright!

You can write to us here at Computer Buyer's Guide (in care of the T/S column), or to me at:

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If you want a reply, please send a SASE. I can't promise an immediate reply , but I will try to answer as promptly as possible.

Next month, besides the Pixel Print and Parker book reviews, we'll take a look at our User Group of the Month, and we'll introduce you to a T/S dealer.

To wrap up this month, we've included a listing for Sound Effects, a TS2068 Public Domain Program.

Be sure to send us your information for the T/S National Database.

Until next month, take care!